

December 20, 2004

Maine Department of Environmental Protection
Att: Hetty Richardson
17 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0017

Dear Ms. Richardson,

I have been told that the Department of Environmental Protection is drafting rules for the disposal of cruise ship waste in Maine waters. The subject is of concern to me because I have spent part of almost every summer of my 76 years at Pretty Marsh Harbor on Blue Hill Bay.

Now it's true that Blue Hill Bay isn't very likely to become a venue for cruise ships, but I have only to look across Mount Desert Island to Bar Harbor to get a strong and worried sense of the growing magnitude and urgency of the issue. I'm glad your department is tackling it.

I've been told by friends (at Hancock Point) that Alaska leads the United States in the stringency of its control of seaborne waste. The long-standing problem there must be quite similar to the growing problem in Maine. I hope you will look closely into Alaska's regulations, and take appropriate guidance from them as a model.

So many resources are at stake--fishing and lobstering especially, but also boating, whale-watching, and other tourist recreational activities. I have no idea how serious the problem has already become. The point is to keep it from becoming serious in the first place. I wish you well in finding the most effective way to do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael McGiffert", written over a light-colored rectangular background.

Michael McGiffert

102 Old Glory Court
Williamsburg, VA 23185

88 Bartlett's Landing Road
Mount Desert, ME 04660